

Date: 3March2021

Subject: H.B. 6355 – An Act Concerning Risk Protection Orders

To Whom It May Concern:

As a Sportsman, Gun Owner, NRA Certified Range Officer, and long time Pistol / Revolver permit holder, I'm writing to voice my total OPPOSITION to the proposed changes to the existing working "Red Flag Law."

As I understand it, the existing "Red Flag" law requires two trained law enforcement officers to agree the subject of the investigation is a threat to themselves or others before requesting a Judge issue an order to seize the individual's weapons.

The proposed changes to the existing law expands the list of individuals who may simply be seeking revenge, to include former partners, neighbors, roommates, etc, yet the proposed changes do not include any penalties or prosecution for malicious false accusations, thus making this a legal means of "Swatting" a possibly innocent individual.

Seizing a person's firearm through a petition should utilize the high standards like a judge would utilize to consider the FACTS of the case and show that an imminent and extreme risk exists, as the current law requires. The court order authorized by this bill could be issued WITHOUT any indication the person poses an imminent threat to others.

This court order would require the confiscation of firearms legally owned by this person, and place the burden on them to prove by clear and convincing evidence that they should be returned. I'm also concerned the proposed changes would not allow for the transfer of the firearms to a family member, or other individual legally permitted to possess those firearms, as they may be family heirlooms or collectables and could be potentially damaged or destroyed.

Thank You for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. Richard E. Claus  
Willington, Conn. 06279